

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00

/029 W

-----100940Z 015800 /10

O R 100844Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7517

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AUSMISSION GENEVA 399

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3614

NOFORN

DEPT PASS ORM AND EA DAS OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS SREF, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES-THE LEAP DAL

REF: A) STATE 133132 (B) KULALA LUMPUR 3483

1. CHARGE TELEPHONED UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR THIS MORNING (JUNE 10 TO INFORM HIM CONFIDENTIALLY OF PROPOSED APPROACH TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR A LEAP DAL REFUGEE TRADE-OFF. SAMPATKUMAR WAS VERY PLEASED BY THE NEWS AND INFORMED US THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT AGREEING TO ALLOW LEAP DAL REFUGEES TO TRANSIT SINGAPRE EN ROUTE TO COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM. HE NOTED THAT ONE REFUGEE WOULD LEAVE FOR THE US AND 19
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FOR GERMANY NEXT WEEK VIA SINGAPORE AND THAT ANOTHER 80 WOULD BE LEAVING FOR FRANCE VERY SHORTLY, POINTING OUT THAT THIS SHOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER TO BE EXCHANGED WITH THAILAND TO UNDER 200.

2. CHARGE DISCUSSED WITH SAMPATKUMAR FACT U.S. ONLY ABLE TO MOVE 52 TO 59 IN JUNE AND THAT WE HAD NO IDEA HOW

MANY WOULD ACTUALLY GO IN JULY AND AUGUST BECAUSE MOST ELIGIBLE REFUGEES' DATE OF ARRIVAL IS DECEMBER 1976 OR LATER. SAMPATKUMAR POINTED OUT THAT GOM HAD ALLOWED 300 FROM ROLAND TO RETURN ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. WOULD TAKE A CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE REFUGEES WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE PRIME MINSTER AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS LAST WEEK (BEFORE HUSSEIN LEFT FOR LONDON) AND HE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THEM TO DO MORE THAN "CONSIDER" ALLOWING THE LEAP DAL GROUP TO TRANSIT MALAYSIA BECAUSE THEY WERE ALARMED BY THE CONTINUING FLOOD OF ARRIVALS, SAMPATKUMAR INDICATED GENTLY BUT FIRMLY THAT HE FELT SLOWNESS OF U.S. PROGRAM HAD CONTRIBUTED TO UNFORTHCOMING GOM ATTITUDE.

3. SAMPATKUMAR ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM JOHORE WHERE HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND INSPECTED REFUGEE LOCATIONS. HE OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO CONCENTRATE THE 750 BOAT REFUGEES NOW IN JOHORE ON AN ISLAND APPROXIMATELY 8 STATUTE MILES NORTHEAST OF MERSING CALLED PULAU BABI TENGAH (MIDDLE PIG ISLAND). JOHORE GOVERNMENT HAD STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANYMORE BOAT REFUGEES BUT SAMPATKUMAR NOTED THAT A SEMI-SINKING FISHING BOAT WITH 58 WAS ACCEPTED YESTERDAY, THEREFORE HE HOPED THAT REFUGEES IN DIFFICULTIES STILL WILL BE PERMITTED TO LAND.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY APPLAUDS DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO SOLVE THE LEAP DAL PROBLEM BUT FEELS FORCED TO POINT OUT THAT SAMPATKUMAR IS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT WE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISAPOINTED GOM BY FAILING TO MOVE A "SIGNIFICANT" NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE REFUGEES AFTER ROLAND AFFAIR. THEREFORE, WE CONTINUE TO NEED AUTHORITY FOR 100-200 REFUGEES OVER NEXT 60 DAYS OF AT VERY LEAST BE ABLE TO USE DATE OF BOATS' INITIAL ARRIVAL AS PRIORITY DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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